

MULTIPROCESSOR CONTROL BLOCK FOR USE IN A COMMUNICATION SWITCH AND METHOD THEREFORE

Abstract of the Invention

5 A communication switch that includes a multiprocessor control block and a
method therefore is presented. The multiprocessor control block includes a centralized
resource and routing processor that controls resource allocation and routing functionality
within the switch. A plurality of intermediate processors operably coupled to the
resource and routing processor perform call processing for corresponding portions of the
10 connections supported by the switch, where such call processing includes issuing
resource allocation requests to the resource and routing processor. Each of the
intermediate processors further performs functions associated with a signaling layer
portion of the protocol stack. The multiprocessor control block also includes a link layer
processor operably coupled to the plurality of intermediate processors, where the link
15 layer processor also couples to a switching fabric of the communication switch. The link
layer processor receives ingress data units from the switching fabric and selectively
forwards these ingress data units to one or more of the plurality of intermediate
processors for processing. The link layer processor also received egress data units from
the plurality of intermediate processors that it forwards to the switching fabric.